

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing background caching of encrypted programming for later playback, comprising:

a memory operatively connected to a bus for storing received, encrypted digital data packets of at least one pay-per-view (PPV) event;

a processor for decrypting the data packets when they are transferred by said the memory via said the bus; and

a decoder for decoding said the decrypted data packets for display on a display device,

wherein the apparatus is adapted to select at least one PPV event for recording without instruction from a user, and wherein the apparatus searches and caches data packets of said the selected at least one PPV event without user intervention when in a power-down mode, and plays back a recorded PPV event in a power-up mode upon selection by a the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a recording device for digitally recording said the encrypted digital data packets, and for transmitting said the digitally recorded data packets to said the memory.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the recording device includes at least one mass storage device.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said the mass storage device is at least one of a hard disc drive, magnetic storage device or optical storage medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said the processor is a transport processor operatively connected to said the bus and to an input port for receiving said the encrypted digital data packets from said the input port.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:
a host processor operatively connected to said the bus and said the memory for
performing graphics-user interface and browser functions; and

an interface for receiving said the encrypted digital data packets from said the
transport processor, and for transferring said the received encrypted digital data packets
simultaneously to said the memory via said the bus, and to said the decoder,

said the memory further including a buffer space for temporarily storing the encrypted
digital data packets received from said the interface,

said the host processor directing said the memory to transfer said the encrypted digital
data packets to be digitally recorded by said the recording device, and

said the interface adapted to receive said the digitally recorded data packets from said
the recording device via said the memory and said the bus.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, said the interface
being further adapted to transfer said the digitally recorded data packets to said the decoder.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said the
host processor searches a program guide to find upcoming PPV events, and, when said the
PPV event begins, the apparatus tunes to an appropriate transponder to begin receiving the
encrypted digital data packets.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the digital data packets
include packetized audiovisual data, system time data and conditional access data.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the
transport processor provides an additional layer of conditional access for the encrypted digital
data packets.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data packets are
time-stamped upon reception.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein the data packets are time-stamped upon reception, and
wherein the decoder and transport processor utilize the recorded time stamps to
recreate the original transmission timing of the encrypted digital data packets, only when the
user selects a recorded PPV event for playback.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the memory stores encrypted digital data of a plurality of PPV events in
repetition while the apparatus is in the power-down mode, and
wherein the user only pays for those recorded PPV events that are selected for
playback in the power-up mode.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said the
recording device is an external storage medium.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the
transport processor decrypts said the encrypted digital data packets of the user-selected PPV
event, and sends the decrypted data packets to said the decoder via said the interface.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said the
decoder includes an MPEG A/V decoder for decoding the video portion of said the decrypted
digital data packets, and an AC-3/MPEG audio decoder for decoding the audio portion of
said the decrypted digital data packets.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a video encoder that
converts the received video portion of the decrypted digital data packets to analog for display.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured as a
set-top box (STB) equipped with a digital video recorder.

19. (Currently amended) A method for background caching encrypted programming for later playback in a digital video recording (DVR) system, comprising:

storing received, encrypted digital data packets of at least one pay-per-view (PPV) event in a memory;

time-stamping the received data packets upon reception;

decrypting the data packets when they are transferred by said the memory via a bus; and

decoding saidthe decrypted data packets for display on a display device,

wherein ~~said the~~ at least one PPV event ~~is searched~~is selected for recording without user instruction, and its corresponding data packets are cached ~~without user intervention~~, when the DVR system is in a power-down mode, and

wherein a selected PPV event is played back when the DVR system is in a power-up mode, upon selection by ~~a~~the user.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said the step of storing is repeated for a plurality of PPV events when the DVR system is in said the power-down mode.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the user only pays for those cached PPV events that are selected for playback in the power-up mode.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said the searching includes searching a program guide to find upcoming PPV events, and, when said the PPV event begins, the DVR system tunes to an appropriate transponder to begin receiving the encrypted digital data packets.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein said the searching is performed by a host processor in the DVR system.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising decrypting said the encrypted digital data packets of the user-selected PPV event, wherein said the decryption is performed in a transport processor operatively connected to said the memory via said the bus.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said the step of decoding includes utilizing said the recorded time stamps to recreate the original transmission timing of the encrypted digital data packets, only when the user selects a recorded PPV event for playback.

26. (Currently amended) A set-top box (STB) for performing background caching of encrypted programming for later playback, comprising:

searching means for searching a program guide to find upcoming pay-per-view (PPV) events received as encrypted data packets;

storing means for caching the received encrypted data packets for later playback; and retrieval means for retrieving said the data packets for display,

wherein the searching means searches the at least one PPV event without user instruction and said the storing means caches data packets of said the at least one PPV event without user intervention when the STB is in a power-down mode, and plays back a recorded PPV event when the STB is in a power-up mode.

27. (Currently Amended) The STB of claim 26, wherein said the searching means and said the storing means repeat searching and recording for a plurality of PPV events, said the recorded plurality of PPV events being stored on an external storage medium for later playback.

28. (Currently Amended) The STB of claim 26,
wherein said the encrypted digital data packets are time-stamped upon reception, and
wherein said the retrieval means decrypts said the encrypted digital data packets, uses
the recorded time stamps to recreate the original transmission timing data of the data packets,
and decodes the decrypted digital data packets for display on a display device.

29. (Original) The STB of claim 26, wherein a user only pays for those cached
PPV events that are selected for playback in the power-up mode.